AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amended claims, which will replace all prior version(s) of the claims.

1. (Original) A substrate for cell growth comprising a polysaccharide and a cell adhesion protein provided at the surface of the substrate and non-covalently associated therewith.

2. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 1 comprising a polysaccharide basal layer having a surface layer incorporating the cell adhesion protein.

3. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the polysaccharide basal layer has a thickness greater than 60% of the thickness of this layer and the polysaccharide basal layer.

4. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide basal layer has a thickness greater than 80% of the thickness of this layer and the polysaccharide basal layer.

5. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the cell adhesion protein layer is integral with the polysaccharide basal layer.

6. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 5 wherein the layer of the cell adhesion protein has a thickness of 1-20μm.

7. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the layer of the cell adhesion protein is a surface adsorbed layer.

8. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 7 wherein the layer of the cell adhesion protein is 3-5 molecules deep.

9. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the polysaccharide basal layer comprises at least 80% by weight of polysaccharide.

10. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 9 wherein the polysaccharide basal layer comprises at least 90% by weight of polysaccharide.

11. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the surface layer of the cell adhesion protein comprises at least 80% by weight of cell adhesion protein.

12. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 11 wherein the surface layer of the cell adhesion protein comprises at least 90% by weight of cell adhesion protein.

13. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 12 wherein the surface layer of cell adhesion protein comprises 95 to 100% by weight of cell adhesion protein.

14. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 2wherein the cell adhesion protein layer is discontinuous layer.

15. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 2 wherein the polysaccharide layer incorporates an active agent.

16. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 15 wherein the active agent is encapsulated.

17. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 15 wherein the active agent is a drug, growth factor or chemotactic agent.

18. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 1wherein the polysaccharide is selected from alginates, chitosan, polylysine and other polyamino acids, cationic starches, cationic derivatives of other hydrocolloids, collagen, gelatine, low-methoxyl pectin, carrageenans, chondroitin sulphate, hyaluronic acid, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, carboxymethyl guar, cellulose sulphate, dextran sulphate, gellan, xanthan, and anionic derivatives of other hydrocolloids.

19. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 18 wherein the polysaccharide is an alginate.

20. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 19 wherein the alginate has a Guluronic acid (G) content of at least 35% by weight and Mannuronic acid (M) content of at most 65% by weight.

21. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 20 wherein the polysaccharide as a G content of 35-70% by weight and an M content of 65-30% by weight.

22. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 19wherein the alginate is cross-linked with divalent cations, preferably calcium ions.

23. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 22 wherein the cell adhesion protein is stabilised by calcium ion bridges.

24. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 18 wherein the polysaccharide is chitosan.

25. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 24 wherein the chitosan comprises at least 70% de-acetylated chitin.

26. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cell adhesion protein is present in blood plasma.

27. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cell adhesion protein incorporates the RGD binding site.

28. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 27 wherein the cell adhesion protein is fibronectin, vitronectin or von Willebrand protein.

29. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 28 wherein the cell adhesion protein is fibronectin.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 1in the form of a fibre.

32. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 31 wherein the fibre has a diameter of 10-1000μm.

33. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 32 wherein the fibre has a diameter of 40-150μm.

34. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 33 wherein the fibre has a diameter of 40-100μm.

35. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 34 wherein the fibre has a diameter of 50-80μm.

36. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 1 which is in the form of a sheet or film.

37. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 36 having a thickness of 2-2000μm.

38. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 37 having a thickness of 10-100μm.

39. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 37 having a thickness of 200-1000μm

40. (Original) A substrate as claimed in claim 37 having a thickness of 500-2000μm.

41. (Previously Presented) An assembly of fibres as claimed in claim 31.

42. (Original) An assembly as claimed in claim 41 in the form of a random matrix (e.g. a non-woven felt or fleece), orientated matrix (fibres having some relative alignment), a knitted structure, a braided structure, a bundled structure or a carded sliver.

43. (Previously Presented) An assembly comprising a plurality of fibres as claimed in claim 31 wherein the fibres are arranged in parallel to each other.

44. (Previously Presented) An assembly comprising a plurality of fibres as claimed in claim 31wherein the fibres are arranged randomly.

45. (Previously Presented) An assembly as claimed in claim 43 wherein the fibres are provided on a support in the form of a sheet or film.

46. (Original) An assembly as claimed in claim 45 wherein the fibres are provided on a high MVTR film.

47. (Original) An assembly as claimed in claim 41 wherein said fibres are provided in a matrix of an amorphous gel.

48-63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The use of a substrate as claimed in claim 1 .

65. (Previously Presented) The use of an assembly as claimed in claim 41 in therapy.